

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling an information processing apparatus, said method comprising:

~~security hardware for storing security key information in a security hardware so that it can be freely read and written;~~

~~OS start admission means for in response to an operating system attempting to start, determining by an OS start admission circuit whether or not input data for user certification is valid when an OS starts based on said security key information read from said security hardware, and permitting said operating system admitting the OS to start if the when said determination result is positive;~~

~~security key information restoration means for restoring the said security key information in the said security hardware by a security key information restoration circuit based on predetermined data for restoration, wherein said predetermined data for restoration is generated when generating said security key information within said security hardware in order to render said security key information freely restorable and is stored in an auxiliary storage;~~

~~OS start type selection means for selecting and selectively executing either a first type OS start for generating to generate a first system status in which said security key information restoration means is operable (hereafter, referred to as a "first system status") and operating circuit can operate said OS start admission means circuit or a functionally restricted second type OS start for generating to generate a functionally restricted second system status in which said security key information restoration circuit means is inoperable (hereafter, referred to as a "second system status") and not operating cannot operate said OS start admission circuit; means, and said method causing a computer to execute:~~

~~a cancellation step in which cancellation means cancels~~ canceled the operation of said OS start admission ~~means circuit by a cancellation circuit~~ as to the said first type OS start after it is generated; and

~~a cancel release step in which cancel release means releases the~~ releasing cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission ~~means circuit~~ by said cancellation ~~means circuit~~ after the said first type OS start having the operation of said OS start admission ~~means circuit~~ canceled by said cancellation ~~means is circuit has been~~ executed at least once.

2. (currently amended) The method ~~of for controlling an information processing apparatus according to~~ Claim 1, wherein the said input data for user certification is the data keyed in by the an user on the said first type OS start.

3-21. canceled

22. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first and second type OS starts are starts based on the same OS stored in the same auxiliary storage, and when starting said operating system, said OS start type selection circuit detects whether or not a predetermined user operation is performed so as to select and execute said first type OS start or said second type OS start.

23. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first and second type OS starts are starts based on two operating systems, each being stored in a different auxiliary storage, and when a second operating system is readable from said auxiliary storage storing said second operating system, said OS start type selection circuit selects and executes said second type OS start in preference over said first type OS start.

24. (new) A computer readable storage medium having a computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus, said computer readable storage medium comprising:

instructions for storing security key information in a security hardware;

instructions for, in response to an operating system attempting to start, determining by an OS start admission circuit whether or not input data for user certification is valid based on said security key information read from said security hardware, and permitting said operating system to start when said determination result is positive;

instructions for restoring said security key information in said security hardware by a security key information restoration circuit based on predetermined data for restoration, wherein said predetermined data for restoration is generated when generating said security key information within said security hardware in order to render said security key information freely restorable and is stored in an auxiliary storage;

instructions for selectively executing either a first type OS start to generate a first system status in which said security key information restoration circuit can operate said OS start admission circuit or a second type OS start to generate a second system status in which said security key information restoration circuit cannot operate said OS start admission circuit;

instructions for canceling the operation of said OS start admission circuit by a cancellation circuit as to said first type OS start; and

instructions for releasing cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission circuit by said cancellation circuit after said first type OS start having the operation of said OS start admission circuit canceled by said cancellation circuit has been executed at least once.

25. (new) The computer readable storage medium of Claim 24, wherein said input data for user certification is data keyed in by an user on said first type OS start.

26. (new) The computer readable storage medium of Claim 24, wherein said first and second type OS starts are starts based on the same OS stored in the same auxiliary storage, and when starting said operating system, said OS start type selection circuit detects whether or not a predetermined user operation is performed so as to select and execute said first type OS start or said second type OS start.

27. (new) The computer readable storage medium of Claim 24, wherein said first and second type OS starts are starts based on two operating systems, each being stored in a different auxiliary storage, and when a second operating system is readable from said auxiliary storage storing said second operating system, said OS start type selection circuit selects and executes said second type OS start in preference over said first type OS start.